



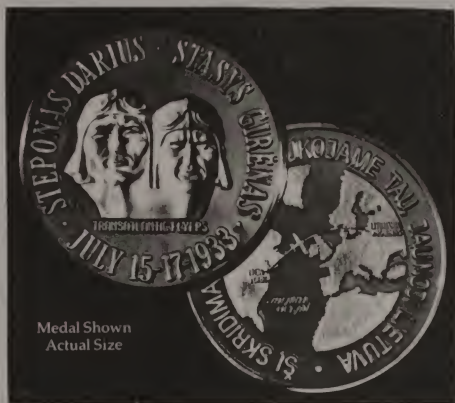
THE

KNIGHT



Vol I, #5 The Official Publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association Feb/Mar 1979 \$1.00

LITHUANIAN AERO CLUB DARIUS & GIRĖNAS MEMORIAL MEDAL



Medal Shown
Actual Size

The Lithuanian-American Aero Club, Inc. of Chicago has issued a special memorial medal to commemorate the ill-fated flight of the two Lithuanian flyers, Steponas Darius, and Stasys Girėnas. The medals are 2" in diameter and are minted by the Hamilton Mint. They are available in .999 silver (1.775 oz.) for \$25, (Mintage:125) and in solid bronze for \$10, (mintage: 80). They were designed by Vytautas Peseckas.

Orders may be placed to the: Lithuanian American Aero Club, Inc., 2846 West 63rd St., Chicago, Illinois 60629. Enclose 75¢ p & h for each one.

Darius-Girėnas created international headlines in 1933 as they attempted a non-stop flight from New York City, to Kaunas, Lithuania, the temporary capital of Lithuania. Both Darius and Girėnas were accomplished fliers, having served in numerous military and civil assignments.

In 1932 with their own money (\$3,200) they bought a 6 seater Bellanca, which they named LITUANICA. With donations from Lithuanian-Americans (\$8,456) a new motor was fitted into the plane, more room was made and more cans to take on fuel put in, but there was not enough money for the latest navigational equipment. Lituanica left N.Y.C. on July 15, 1933 at 6:24 AM, without government approval.

The pilots found their bearings by compass and kept a steady course. On the eve of July 16 they flew over Scotland. On the night of July 17 Lituanica reached Prussia, 115km north of Berlin, and crashed there in a forest near the German town of Soldin, not far from the Lithuanian border. Before their crash, the pilots

Con't on page 2.

VARNAS IS 100

Adomas Varnas, the designer of Lithuanian banknotes printed in Prague in 1922, turned 100 yrs. old January 1, 1979 in Chicago. Congratulations Mr. Varnas! A biography of Varnas was printed in the Jan. 16 issue of World Coin News, Pg. 2.

1ST L.N.A. MEETING HELD

The Lithuanian Numismatic Association held its first meeting December 17, 1978 at the N.Y. International Numismatic Convention. L.N.A. members Bob Douchis and Vince Alones greeted visitors and welcomed those who attended the meeting. A special Lithuanian "Trends" was distributed at the Convention. Coin World reprinted our Lithuanian Trends in their January 3, 1979 page 58 issue, as well as reporting on the L.N.A. meeting. Ačiū!

Speakers were Karl Stephens, who presented slides of medieval Lithuanian-Polish coins, and Coin World international editor David T. Alexander, who described Estonian numismatics, and medals issued by exiles.



Vince Alones (l) and LNA Dir. Bob Douchis (r)

SEE YOU IN CHICAGO MARCH 24

The L.N.A. and the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture will hold a meeting Saturday March 24 at 5:00 PM at the Chicago International Coin Fair, at the O'Hare Kennedy Holiday Inn on N. River Road in Rosemont, Illinois.

Speakers for the meeting will be: Frank Passic, L.N.A. editor who will speak on "The L.N.A. and modern Lithuanian Numismatics."; Stanley Balzekas, Jr., President of the Museum, "Museum rarities and numismatic collection", and Jonas Z. Augustinius, expert on medieval Lithuanian numismatics, "Coins of Lithuania's monarchical period."

The C.I.C.F. draws dealers from around the world, and is entirely a world numismatic event. There will be 190 dealers, and many exhibits, some of which will be Lithuanian. Consult the major numismatic publications for details about the C.I.C.F., and the L.N.A. meeting as to exhibits, meeting room, etc. See you there!!

STAMP BOOK

The Collectors Club of New York and the Lithuanian Philatelic Societies of New York and Toronto are proud to announce the publication of a new handbook, Postage Stamps of Lithuania. Edited by Jonas Grigaliunas, Steve Ivanaukas, Charles Matuzas, Jonas Mulevich, Dr. Vytautas Doniela, Kazimeras Lietuvis.

Divided into 11 chapters which include ALL stamp issues, proofs, essays, postal rates, bibliography with the history, geography and language of Lithuania, the book is hardbound with 244 pages. Price is \$14.50 plus \$1.50 p&h. Available for immediate shipment by writing: The Collectors Club 22 E. 35th st, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10016, or Vince Alones, 217 McKee St., Floral Park, N.Y. 11001.

The book culminates a 25 year effort, and is the definite work on Lithuanian philately, and is in the English language. Only 2,000 copies are available. We at the L.N.A. salute you for this monumental work!

2. DARIUS-GIRĖNAS, CON'T...

threw out a special load of mail postmarked "Lituanica"; these subsequently were discovered and sold to stamp collectors.

The pilots had flown 6,441 km in 35 hours, 15 minutes; there were only 650 km left to Kaunas, which they had wanted to reach without a stop.

The bodies were flown to Kaunas, where over 60,000 attended the public funeral.

Their bodies were placed in the Kaunas cemetery, with a special plaque from America placed at the site in 1935. Their bodies were hidden during the war, and finally were buried in Aukštieji Šančiai, where a new communist-approved monument now stands.

On board the LITUANICA was found their diary, which contained these words, "...We live in such a time when people try to use air for the good of mankind...may the success of Lituanica strengthen the spirit of young sons of Lithuania and inspire them to new ventures...May the failure teach young Lithuanians strong will and determination..."

Two monuments have been erected in the U.S.; one in Brooklyn, N.Y., and the other in Chicago, Ill.

(above historical information taken from the Encyclopedia Lituanica)

HALL OF FAME

The late Victor David Brenner, famous sculptor and designer of the U.S. Lincoln cent, who was born and raised in Siauliai, Lithuania, has been elected to the Numismatic Hall of Fame, a Shrine of the American Numismatic Association. This was announced at the ANA convention in Houston in August of 1978. 5 other numismatist were also elected to the Hall of Fame. Brenner emigrated from Lithuania to the U.S. in 1890.

BRIDGES

Bridges, the monthly newsletter which focuses upon events of Lithuania and Lith-Americans, featured a very nice article about the LNA in its Sept '78 issue. The type of material contained in Bridges goes hand in hand with that in The Knight. This is an excellent publication to "keep up" with what is going on concerning Lithuanians in the world today, and political events. Subscriptions are \$3 yearly. Write: Bridges, 84-55 86th Ave, Woodhaven, New York 11421.

KLAIPĖDA ARTICLE

An article about the colorful scenic Notgeld notes of Klaipėda issued in 1922 will be appearing in March in Coin World. Watch for it.

THE KNIGHT

Feb-March 1979 Vol. I, #5. Published bi-monthly by the Lithuanian Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 612, Columbia, MD 21045. Subscription to Vol I donation of \$5 or more. Frank Passic, editor. Robert J. Douchis, director. All subscriptions will "start over" again this June.

Quantity copies of the Kosciuszko article are available to give to "uninformed" exhibitors, etc. Enclose a cost-donation and specify how many needed: 25, 50, etc.

THE COIN OF DEATH

In our Oct-Nov issue (#3) we featured the 1938 10 Lity 20th anniversary commemorative as our coin of the month. We mentioned that while 180,000 were minted, many were melted down by the Russians a few years later. Here is the story behind this, as contained in the June 1948 issue of the American-Lithuanian Specialist (courtesy Balzekas Museum) In an article by J. Yuknis Jr, the following information is recorded: (pg 20)

"180,000 of those 10 Lity silver coins were struck in the Kaunas Mint to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Independence of Lithuania in 1938.

When the Russian army occupied Lithuania on June 15, 1940, Moscow ordered the destruction of every item with a portrait of President Smetona [Smetona had escaped to Germany]. On June 19, people were ordered to turn those coins in within 1 week's time to the bank, or Post Office, or Police. Rumors were circulating that if such a coin would be found in possession of anybody, there might be a death penalty. Frightened people stood in line at designated places to deliver those "capitalistic" coins to Bolshevik officials. Then they were melted. Now they are a numismatic rarity.

Postage stamps with Smetona's portrait were also similarly destroyed. Naive Russians wanted to erase the name of that great President of Lithuania from pages of history, from people's minds and hearts. But they failed...Russians murdered all the philatelists in Lithuania when their NKVD found some Smetona's stamps in their albums: that is a fact!!

The great President of Lithuania Antanas Smetona came to America to plead for his country's freedom, and the U.S. up till now does not recognize the enslavement of Lithuania by the Russians...I consider any item with a portrait of President Smetona as AMERICANA, fit for any collection of Lithuanian Americana."

HISTORIC LETTER FROM RAČKUS

Last month we featured the Smetona medal issued in 1920 as our medal of the month. In the archives of the Balzekas Museum in Chicago we uncovered this historic letter from Alexander Račkus, famous Lithuanian numismatist, who had much to do with the medal planning and distribution. This letter is written in Lithuanian, and is translated for us by Val Matelis of Coral Gables, Florida.

THE LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Reorganized August 18th, 1917.

Honored Sir: [B. Nenartonis, Chicago, Ill] Jan. 14, 1920

I am gratified to inform you that Artist A.L. Van Der Berghe's entrancingly beautiful creation, observing the declaration of Lithuanian Independence, is now completed. (see the article contained in DARBININKAS, # 132, LITHUANIA #284, and VYTIS #14). The gold medal, which will be presented to His Excellency, the President of Lithuania, has been struck. Bronze medals are already being distributed to all active Lithuanians who have sent in their subscription.

We have the honor to inform you that our Distribution Committee decided to send one specimen of this medal to you, as a accredited lover of your country. If you accept our offer, be kind enough to send us \$5.00 to cover costs, since our Society must bear thousands of dollars expenses.

We likewise sincerely pray you to recommend to us from your colony other persons who are worthy of receiving this medal. We do not sell these medals to everyone, since they are not a commercial venture. Only those should get them who know how to honor them, and who show themselves to be true lovers of their nation. We will accept your recommendation with confidence and will be thankful.

We await your letter and remain, With high regard, The Lithuanian Numismatic and Historical Society, By Al. M. Račkus, Treasurer, 1530 S. 50th Ave, Chicago.

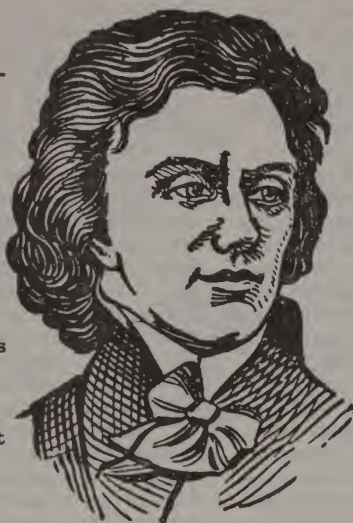
P.S. If we don't hear from you by January, 26, 1920, you will please permit us to understand that we may transfer your medal to another countryman."

Does anyone have any information as to this Lith. Numismatic Society of Dr. Račkus'?

NEWS FLASH!

Custom-made Capital Plastic Lithuanian coin holders are now being manufactured via the Balzekas Museum in Chicago. They should be ready in time for the C.I.C.F. in March. Watch for details as to ordering then. We are excited about this!

THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO
Born February 12, 1746 in Lithuania
Died October 15, 1817 in Switzerland

What's a good Lithuanian coin paper like us doing promoting a Polish coin? Well, as we have stated before, the history of the Baltic region is quite complex. Political boundaries quite often did not reflect national/ethnic boundaries.

Many Lithuanians in history have served in/for other countries. In the case of Poland, many of the early Polish kings were Lithuanian and served both countries.

Both countries at various times have issued coins and currency honoring these famous people. At the present time Lithuania is under Soviet occupation and cannot issue any coins of her own, but Poland is still in the coin producing business, and has issued several items honoring Lithuanians who have served some historical importance to Poland. As has been written before, we Lithuanians are proud to have the Poles honor Lithuanians on their coins!

Our "coin of the month" features a Lithuanian figure who played an important role in our own American Revolution in 1776, as well as for Poland and Lithuania. His name: Thaddeus Kosciuszko! (Tadas Kosciuszka)

10 Zlotych
Y-50

Copper-Nickel

Years issued: 1959, 60, 66, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73.

Mintage: Average of 10-12 million.

Av. Trends: VF: .60 XF: 1.00

UNC: 2.00

Obverse: Bust of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and "Zł 10 Zł."

Reverse: Inscription, and Polish eagle in center, date below.

Kosciuszko is also found on the Polish Y-82 100 Zł issued the year of the American Bicentennial, 1976, and the 500 Zł. in gold, Y-83.

Recently I viewed an exhibit featuring Polish banknotes of Kosciuszko. The title read, "Kosciuszko--A Hero of Two Nations." However, this exhibitor failed to do his "homework," for you see, Kosciuszko was the hero of THREE nations: America, Poland, and LITHUANIA!

Kosciuszko was not Polish--he was a LITHUANIAN!! This fact has been purposely suppressed in the telling of his story. It has been suppressed in history books, as well as in the Kosciuszko House in Philadelphia, where the name of Lithuania is not mentioned anywhere--even on a map!!

Here is the untold side of Kosciuszko, a side that we Lithuanians can be proud of! When the name of Kosciuszko is brought up in conversation, or in a coin/currency

exhibit, don't be afraid to speak up about him being a Lithuanian, for you see, Kosciuszko was proud of it too! He was a Lithuanian by birth, ethnicity, and in spirit. He frequently emphasized this in letters which he wrote.

Here is his remarkable story, as condensed from the Encyclopedia Lituanica Vol. K-M Pgs. 168-71, and "Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the Champion of Freedom," by Anthony Yunkis.

Kosciuszko, Andrew Thaddeus Bonaventure (Lith: Tadas Kosciuszka) 1746-1817, born at Mereczowyszczyna in Lithuanian Brasta ("royal" territory of Brest-Litovsk, Litovsk meaning Duchy of Lithuania, on February 12, 1746.

He was descended from a Lithuanian family of the lesser nobility, which can be traced back to 1509 when King Sigismund the Old granted the Siechnowicze estate to Theodore's son Constantine, who married the Lithuanian princess Anna of Galizia. As family surnames became fixed in the 16th century, their descendants came to be called Kosciuszko.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko studied at the Military Academy of Warsaw in 1765-69, advancing to the rank of Captain and becoming an instructor. He returned to Lithuania in 1774 and lived with his sister Anna Estko at Siechnowicze.

Kosciuszko fell in love, but after seeing his fiancé Louise

Sosnowski married off to another nobleman, Kosciuszko left brokenhearted for Paris in 1776, and in the same year sailed for America.

Kosciuszko was enthusiastic about the American colonies' struggle for independence. On the recommendation of the Board of War, the Continental Congress appointed him an engineer in the service of the U.S., with the rank of colonel. He drew up the blueprints for the fortification of Bilingsport Island in the Delaware River. He served with distinction in the northern and southern campaigns of George Washington!

His sites for battlegrounds and delaying actions of retreats aided the Revolution greatly. His most significant work was considered to be the fortification of Bemis Heights in the Battle of Saratoga, on West Point, which resulted in the surrender of Burgoyne. According to some, he fired the last shot of the American War of Independence in 1782.

Lithuanian Kosciuszko became a respected friend of the American leaders from George Washington down. Having served the American cause for 6 years, Kosciuszko was promoted to brigadier general by the U.S. congress. Thomas Jefferson called this Lithuanian General a "pure son of liberty."

After all this however, Kosciuszko's thoughts were still on the fate of his native Lithuania.

In 1784 he left New York to sail to France and return to Lithuania. Before he entered, he wrote a letter to general Niesiolowski for permission to return: "...the country is beautiful and should be given to the Lithuanians who are active and industrious.... Allow me to return to Lithuania. Perhaps you will forsake me when you see that I cannot serve you. Who am I then? I am none other than a Lithuanian, a friend of yours!"

Returning to Lithuania, he managed his Siechnowicze estate for 4 years. He was grieved by the poverty and ignorance of the peasants and the lack of civic consciousness of the nobles.

CON'T ON PAGE 4

4. KOSCIUSZKO...

"My God, how few are truly citizens!" He argued that all men are equal by nature, that differences lie in one's possessions and education. At a significant loss to himself, he freed some of his serfs and abolished labor dues for women, as well as cutting the men's dues in half.

During this time period, Russia, Prussia, and Austria were all "grabbing" at Lithuania and Poland, taking "chunks" as they could.

In 1789 Kosciuszko was commissioned as a major general in the Polish army. He was not happy among people of different character and temper in Great Poland, and on March 7, 1790 he wrote to General Niesiolowski of the Lithuanian Army: "...will you return me to Lithuania?...What am I if not a Lithuanian, one of your chosen countrymen?...Whom should defend it if not you and myself?...it angers me to be away from Lithuania and serving in Poland...."

While the three major powers had taken over Poland and Lithuania, a General Insurrection was proclaimed in 1794. A National Government was formed, naming Kosciuszko as dictator as well as commander-in-chief of the insurgent forces. Kosciuszko sent the proclamation to his native land in the Lithuanian language. There were immediate uprisings. Colonel James Jasinskis led the revolt of the Lithuanians, and in a few days, all the major cities were freed.

The Lithuanians formed a National Council at their capital city of Vilnius, and appeared to be fighting for independence with great vigor.

It was whispered that they intended to break their ties with Poland. This caused Kosciuszko to send a message to the Council: "Lithuania! My fellow countrymen and nationals! I was born on your soil and in my zeal for my Fatherland there is within me a special affection toward those whom I began my life...to death or victory....Lithuania! Glorious for valor and citizenship, long unfortunate because of the treason of her own sons, I vow to stand amidst you....Once again, I say we shall conquer. Sooner or later Almighty God humbles the invader and aids persecuted nations who are faithful to Him!"

The Lithuanians fought well. They shielded Poland and blocked Russian reinforcements, and ultimately in three columns fought their way into Poland, after the fall of Vilnius. However, fate was against the Lithuanians and Poles at this time, and the war was lost. It should be noted that it was three Lithuanian generals who were the last to lay down their arms at Praga on November 18, 1794.

Kosciuszko was imprisoned for 2 years at St. Petersburg, was freed, and then arrived in America in 1797. In 1798 he wrote his will (recognized by the U.S. Congress), and described himself as a "native of Lithuania in Poland." Note: Lithuania was "joined" to Poland as a commonwealth. Though it was supposed to be an equal alliance, it was anything but that. The Lithuanians resented being "Polonized," and stubbornly resisted.

Kosciuszko was suspicious of the intentions of Napoleon and refused to get involved with his antics. In June of 1812, Napoleon's Grand Armee marched into Lithuania, establishing its headquarters in the capital city of Vilnius. Napoleon immediately created the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. It was proposed to restore the defunct Lithuanian-Polish commonwealth, but many Lithuanians opposed any ties with Poland, as it would be an unequal power balance, and

violated Lithuania's rights. When Napoleon lost and was retreating, he passed through Lithuania. He remarked how beautiful St. Anne's church was and that he wanted to take it back to Paris with him! On a suburban Vilnius road, a monument facing east was placed, "Napoleon passed this way with 400,000 men. On the other side of the road facing west was: "Napoleon passed this way with 40,000 men."

Czar Alexander I marched into Lithuania, and Kosciuszko wrote him, "...Sire, I was born a Lithuanian and have but a few years to live...the veil of the future covers the destiny of my native land.."

Kosciuszko retired to Soleure, Switzerland, and died there on October 15, 1817.

The convention of the nobility in Vilnius requested that the Russian government allow them to bring the general's body to Lithuania and to erect a monument. Russia during this period was trying to wipe out the Lithuanian language, even the name of Lithuania. They forbade bringing the body of Kosciuszko back to his native Lithuania for proper recognition and burial. However, citizens held numerous memorial services in Lithuania for their fellow countryman, against the wishes of the Russian occupiers.

Instead, the body of Kosciuszko was brought to Cracow, Poland, at the Czar's cost, and buried in the Wawel Cathedral, where former rulers lay buried. A great many monuments were erected in Poland and America, but none were permitted in Kosciuszko's homeland, Lithuania.

A number of Lithuanian societies were named for him in the 19th century, but disappeared gradually during the rising Lithuanian renaissance amid tense relations with the Poles, who monopolized this Lithuanian and made him "one of their own." Recorded modern history has erroneously omitted and suppressed Kosciuszko's Lithuanian nationality, and instead has proclaimed him as a Pole. This of course, does not take into account Kosciuszko's own words and numerous letters testifying to the fact that he was a Lithuanian---and proud of it!

The New York Post of the Lithuanian Legion of America was named after Kosciuszko in 1930, "the first Lithuanian soldier in America."

Kosciuszko's Lunneville military academy in France, has been transformed into an historical museum. Even today, the hall of the Lithuanians can be seen. There is a wall map of the vast Grand Duchy of Lithuania, statues, and paintings. The plaque in the wall recorded the names of the Lithuanian cadets: Kosciuszko, Pacas, Radvilas, Karpis, and others.

The name of Kosciuszko will be remembered always by free men, and should especially be remembered by Lithuanians. It was a Lithuanian--Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a lover of freedom, who helped the U.S. gain its freedom 200 years ago!

We hope you have enjoyed this. Any numismatic exhibit about Kosciuszko should mention that he was a Lithuanian.

PROUD OF IT

"LITHUANIAN--And Proud of It!" colorful bumper stickers are available for \$1.25 each plus P & H from Baltic Enterprises, P.O. Box 8241, Boston, Mass. 02114.

SURVEY

As subscriptions to Vol. I. will expire in June, we have decisions to make and need your opinions. Many have stated that they want The Knight published on standard size paper, rather than the long 14", so it can be bound and filed. This would result in added cost, however. In addition, a shorter length would mean added pages leading to higher postage, etc.. Our initial goal was a 2-sheet paper; as you know it is now a steady 6 sheet one, and subscriptions will have to be raised to cover project costs, plus losses incurred this previous year. Please write as to your suggestions and comments concerning either matter.

LETTERS...

This is to thank you for including in the Oct-Nov '78 issue a full description of the Katyn Medal issued by this committee. Your generous treatment of this subject is deeply appreciated. It may be of interest that a total of 470 medals were struck in bronze, 100 in silver, and 2 in gold. We know that a number of them have found their way into Poland, where the truth about Katyn is strictly suppressed. --Krzysztof M. Munnich, Springfield, MA.

Your observation that we are lacking a comprehensive source of numismatic information is very well taken. Much data is scattered in German, Polish, and Russian sources. Often serious errors in attribution and certain historical events are depicted incorrectly...

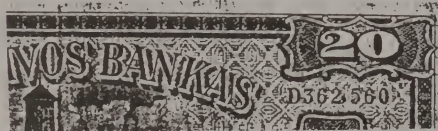
--A.V. Kore, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Editors note: Hope you enjoy the Kosciuszko article in this issue!

In issue 2 you state on page 3 that the banknote 20 Lity 1930 comes in series D. I am curious about this as I have searched about this for years. I have even approached the experts (Dr. Keller, Pick, etc.) and they have never heard or seen of a series D. I would appreciate information on this or if you know of anyone who may have this series could you kindly let me know. I wish to know if it is genuine or a counterfeit.

--John Glynn, London, England

Directors answer: YES, there IS a series D! I can assure you that the D series note does exist, at least in one well circulated note with serial # D362,560.



If any of our readers have one of these with a D. Serial number, please send a photocopy of it in to us. Apparently, these are quite scarce, and would therefore command a higher premium than the A,B,C series. We would like to determine the extent of the numbers used for the D. series. By the way, Pick uses a D series note for illustration in his WPM book.

A.N.A. CURATOR WRITES:

The latest edition of *The Knight* (#4) came today. In reading it I see on page 3 the medal of the month, the 1919 Independence Commemorative. I have one and obtained it in the J. Henri Ripstra sale in Ft. Wayne, Indiana on February 15, 1975 for \$6.00. It is in a homemade holder with a rubbing of the reverse and the medal in the holder showing the obverse. There is a card which accompanied the medal and it is as follows: "Mr. J. Henri Ripstra my dear friend, I have the pleasure to present you with this bronze medal of the 1st anniversary of the Republic of Lithuania. I made the portrait of the president from a photograph and the figure of the bestel (?) on the veroo (?) is also a portrait, that of Wm Rakus. I am your friend, Albert L. Van der Berghen, Sculptor, Oak Lawn, Cook Co., Ill. February 4, 1920."

There was another medal in the same sale and I bid on that one, but since I already had just gotten this one, didn't bid too

CHICAGO LODGE TOKENS

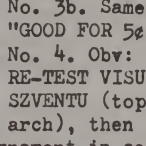
By the late Dr. Alexander M. Rackus

Continued from last issue

Aluminum planchet 15X19mm. crossed ovals shaped. Undated. Note: St. Stephen Lithuanian Society was organized on Dec. 16, 1905. For how long did it function no one knows.



No. 3. Obv: DR. SV-TO M-LO (top arch) ARKANILOLO in one line through the middle of the planchet, and NO. 2 at the bottom, all encircled by a beaded border. The abbreviation stands for DRAUGYSTE SZVENTO MYK-OLO ARKANILOLO No. 2, which means "Society of Saint Michael Archangel No. 2." Rev: inscription arching the top GOOD FOR and large cypher 10¢ in the middle: IN TRADE below--all encircled by a beaded border. Aluminum disc 26mm in diameter. This lodge was organized on December 6th, 1903.



No. 3b. Same Obverse, but on the reverse "GOOD FOR 5¢ IN TRADE" instead of 10¢. No. 4. Obv: RE-TEST VISU SZVENTU (top arch), then ornament in center, then KOWOS 17d. in straight line below, and 1906 at the bottom--all encircled in a fine beaded border. Abbreviations stand for "DRAUGYSTES VISU SZVENTU-KOWOS 17 17 dieną, 1906" Translation: "Society of All-Saints-March 17 th day, 1906. Rev: a very large cypher 5 in the center, encircled by a dotted border. Aluminum octagonal planchet 25-27mm. Note: This All Saints Society should not be confused with another lodge under similar name "VISU SZVENTU PASELPOS DRAUGIJA," which was organized in another part of Chicago on August 29th, 1915.



No. 5. Obv: K.L.K. (top arch), MINDAUGIO (straight line) PRIE (under) and PARAP. SZW. JURGIO K. at the bottom rim. Abbreviations stand for, "Kareivaia Lietuvos Karaliaus MINDAUGIO PRIE PARAPIJOS SZVENTO JURGIO KAREIWIO." The translation: "Knights of the Lithuanian King MINDAUGIS AT SAINT GEORGE THE KNIGHT PARISH." Reverse: Very large cypher 5 encircled by a beaded border. Aluminum disc, 25 mm. Undated. Note: Nobody knows when it was organized, what functions it performed or for how long it existed. St. George Parish archives has no records about that lodge. Judging from the style of the token it was struck about the same period as Token #4, i.e. circa A.D. 1906.

No. 6. Obv: DR. TE. SV. K. KAZIMERA around the edge; cypher 5, in the center; border is encircled with large dots. Inscription is jumbled and misspelled. Abbreviation stands for DRAUGYSTE SVENTO KARALACIO KAZIMIERO. Translation: "Society of Saint Prince Casimir." Reverse: Blank with dotted border. Aluminum disc, 26mm. Note: There were several Lithuanian societies in Chicago bearing the name of St. Casimir, and it is difficult to attribute this token. In all probability it was struck by the North Side of Chicago St. Casimir Lodge, the second oldest Lithuanian organization in the city, established on October 24th, 1886. [To be continued]

90% of the world's supply of amber comes from the Baltic sea, and is Lithuania's national gem stone. It is the lightest of all gem stones, and during ancient times was used as a medium of exchange (money).

high and some guy from Chicago got it. It was not in a holder and didn't contain the handwritten card which I valued highly with the sculptor's autograph. All I remember is that the medal went cheaper than mine.

--Kenneth L. Hallenbeck, Curator A.N.A. museum, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Note: See the letter on page 2 of *The Knight* this issue about the medal!

3. A Shield with a double cross. It was created and adopted by Jogaila as his coat of arms during his preparations to marry Poland's Queen Jadwiga (the marriage took place in Crakow in 1386). The cross symbolized two Christian nations: Poland and newly Christianized Lithuania under Jogaila and Vytautas covered by the "shield of united power, unity and God's protection..." Soon the horseman was pictured with a shield, which was inscribed with the double cross, attached to his upper left arm and shoulder as a defensive weapon to ward off the blow of an enemy's sword. And such a horseman (VYTIS) has been portrayed through the centuries; it can't be changed now. However, the double cross, without a shield or on it, had been used separately in the past, can be used by tradition any time. So the "Sauliai" -- a semi-military organization in Independent Lithuania --- chose the shield with the double cross as its insignia. During the period of Lithuania's fight for independence (1918-20), the double cross by itself became the highest military award and was named Vyčio Kryžius (cross of Vytis).

4. The archaic spearhead, indicating might and force, immortalized by Grand Duke Algirdas on his coins of the "pechat" type, did not become popular. Although this figure was the oldest of all known and recognized symbols in Lithuanian heraldry, for some obscure reasons it was forgotten centuries ago. There is no doubt as to its national character, yet it is not in use anywhere today.

After the death of Vytautas the Great in 1430, the life of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy went into a decline. The rulers of the country were now both Grand Dukes of Lithuania and also Kings of Poland. They no longer resided in the Lithuanian Capital of Vilnius but took up residence in Poland. As a result, Polish interests became of paramount concern to them. Along with this, Lithuania's nobles began to lean away from their own people and yielded to the Polish influence. Consequently, the Lithuanian nation was left without its own independent leadership. The outcome was a union of both nations in 1569.

Under the treaty of Lublin it provided for a common King, a common parliament, a common foreign policy and of course, a common currency. After the death of Sigismundus Augustus in 1572, the last ruler of Jogaila's blood line to sit on the Lithuanian-Polish thrones, the rulers of these two united states were elected from among foreign princes, little known to either nation. Those chosen most often were not the ones who would be good rulers but those who had more money with which to bribe the electors. The electoral parliament was composed of Polish and Lithuanian noblemen who did not care for anything but their personal fortunes. Under such circumstances were elected the French prince Valois, Hungarian Bathory, Vasa the Swede, and the German Sax. Nearly each one of these rulers was more occupied with his own affairs than with the government or coordination of the affairs of both States. The administration of the "Commonwealth" was most unsuccessful. Both nations became more and more beset by the degeneration of the nobles. A noticeable political exhaustion appeared. A serious infiltration of poor coins raised its head highly, the economic life lost its vitality; many of the border areas were torn away by aggressive neighbors. Finally, at the end of the 18th century, Poland and Lithuania was completely dismembered and partitioned among the empires of Russia, Prussia, and Austria-Hungary. Lithuania fell under the rule of the czarist Russia and remained under its yoke until World War I.

For 60 years after the death of Vytautas the Great, Lithuanian coins were not minted. Only at the end of the 15th century did Lithuania's Grand Duke Alexander (later also King of Poland) begin to mint new coins in Vilnius. He now stamped on them both the Lithuanian and Polish coat of arms. However, he did not equalize the value of the Lithuanian coins with that of the Polish ones. The Lithuanian "denars" and "half-grosh" were by 1/5 greater in substance value than their Polish equivalents, a psychological advantage. He tried also to create a full "grosh" coin, but remained unsuccessful. From now on, all Lithuanian coins were minted with Latin inscriptions.

Alexander's successor, Sigismundus "the Old," continued minting the "half-Grosh" under his name and in 1535 introduced in addition a full "grosh" silver coin. This was extremely significant for the Grand Duchy's economy because it covered the entire unit of the country's currency for the first time in history. Until then Lithuania had never had such a coin (except "Grossi Pragenses" -- Bohemian "grosh," which circulated here from the first half of the 14th century A.D.). Moreover, Sigismundus' "half groshes" and "groshes" were minted with the issuing year inscribed and in this respect they were modern indeed.

A great variety of silver, as well as gold coins (one-half, one, two, three, five and ten ducat gold pcs.) were minted in Vilnius by Sigismundus Augustus and the other Grand Dukes who succeeded him (all the Kings of Poland at the same time). [TO BE CONTINUED.....]

Lithuanian Numismatic Association
P.O. Box 612
Columbia, Maryland 21045

TO:

b. Fractions of more than half a cent are considered a full cent;
 c. To local governments and other offices, and to persons given loans, whose return date expires after the 1st day of the month of October, are repayable in Litas, at the daily rating;
 (10) Loans made by the government, whose repayment date matured before the 1st day of October of this year, but which for some reason have not yet been repayed, are repayable in Litas at the daily rate of the 1st day of October of this year, that is, one Lita is considered equal to 175 aukštiniai; (11) In making payment of government Treasury loans, depositors accept the sheet holding the Lita equal to 175 aukštiniai; that is, 100 aukštiniai sheets are accepted at 2 Litas, 85 cents. The current year's coupons are calculated at the same rate. Bonds of the first loan are payable in Litas, at the rate of the payment day.
 (12) Government Treasury loan sheets of 1921 coupons are payable in the following manner: coupons of 4.80 aukštiniai are payable at 2 cents; 24 aukštiniai, at 15 cents. Freedom of Lithuania loan coupons are payable at the rate of 10 Litas for the dollar;
 (13) Postal money orders given in aukštiniai prior to October 1 of this year, are payable at the rate of 175 aukštiniai for a Lita;
 (14) Unpaid American money orders accepted at the Treasury prior to October 1st, in aukštiniai, and undelivered to the addressees are payable at the rate of 175 aukštiniai for the Lita;
 (15) Savings banks deposits are exchangeable at the rate given as of October 1st, into Litas and are payable in Litas or marks. Owners of the deposits must present their deposit books to the savings banks for exchange of deposits into Litas at the rate of October 1st. From the 1st day of November of this year, deposits are payable only in Litas.

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who never found opportunity to put aside any reserves. A workman upon receiving his wage must hurry home, since each minute his money melted in his hand. An on coming into a store, he heard: "there was one faster than you; see, my shelves are empty..." What is to be? What is to be?

The answer of the Finance Ministry was prepared most intensively. And the time was now. Day after day, week after week, from morning till night work was being rushed there. And rumors were heard in town that very soon there will be new money in circulation, but when this will occur--only a very few would know. It was, as it were, a "state secret," entrusted to only a few of the chosen.

Finally, on September 30, Minister of Finances, Trade and Manufacture V. Petrulis placed the following announcement in the Government News #108 (written September 25):

"Pursuant to Article 2, of Lithuania's Monetary Unit Statute, (Government News #103, Line #806), I hereby announce the beginning with the 1st day of October, 1922, the new monetary unit will be introduced--Litas."

With this announcement, one of the greatest and most important events in the history of Lithuanian money was recorded. After centuries of bondage and slavery, the Lithuanian nation is arising to live in freedom, again possessed of its own money. Since the 1st of October was a Sunday, the windows of the Bank of Lithuania and of the Government Treasury, through which the Lita went into circulation, opened for the first time on Monday, the second day in the month of October. And on that historical day, the world saw the first Lithuanian Bank's banknotes--in the face value of 1, 5, 20, and 50 cents; and 1 and 5 Litas. Soonthereafter various and larger denomination notes hurried to their assistance.

With the introduction of the new monetary system, a plethora of puzzles arose. The instructions, clarifications and announcements prepared in

there was no fitting printer in our temporary capital! We must hurry to foreign parts with our models. We had deadlines on deadlines; and always quickly, quicker, quickest! By October 1st, everything must be prepared, like a shot.

At the same time slowly, but surely, the Bank of Lithuania was being organized. By the end of September, there were assembled a sufficient number of stockholders, and on the 27th day of that month their first session was held, at which a Board of Directors was elected. On September 28, by appointment of the President of the Republic, the Comptroller of the Bank of Lithuania, Prof. Vladas Jurgutis reported and assumed his position at the head of the Board; he had previously served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs. 62. After five days, the Bank had five employees, with whom it began its weighty duties in the new state, being housed on the first floor of the late Finance Ministry's building, at the corner of Duonelaitis and Maironis streets.

The last days of September in Kaunas were autumnish, as always. On Vytautas hill and on the Avenue of Freedom, the trees slowly covered themselves with the gold of yellowing-red leaves. The city's inhabitants, worried about the oncoming winter, searched everywhere for heating material which was impossible to buy, since no one would sell for worthless marks. The public felt restive. Government workers were impoverished; tradesmen hid their wares ever deeper; the famed coachmen of Kaunas collected the greener leaves from trees to feed their horses--unable to buy oats for money, they left off their trips. What is to be? What is to be?.....

These problems flew the air from neighbor to neighbor, from acquaintance to acquaintance. fathers of families bemoaned the economic situation; as also in offices--the lower officials and clerks,

62 This same Jurgutis later became renowned as one of the outstanding economist of Lithuania; he was professor on the Economic Faculty of the University of Lithuania. The Nazi banished him to a concentration camp, from whence he later returned to Lithuania. What the bolshevik "nazis" did to him, we have no information.

notes for gold coins, but such coins had not yet begun to be struck. They were provided for in the 1924 coin statute; there also was incorporated the principle of their unrestricted striking. However, because of the lack of our own coin mint, this matter was left unfinished (and when the mint was established, Hitler was in power, and the second World War grew to a head).

The basic coin of the Lithuanian monetary system was determined at 50 times greater than the actual monetary unit--50 lits of real value. Its fineness --7.5231:8.3592; the first figure gives the weight of 50 Lits of fine gold in grams; the second--standard weight, with its alloy.

All these facts summarized here illustrate that the value of the Lithuanian Lit was the classic monometallic gold ignot value.

The issuance and circulation of the Lit was committed to the Bank of Lithuania, which statute was passed by the Senate August 11th barely two days after the statute of the Lit had passed (published in the Government News, #104). The grant to the Bank for issuance of the banknotes was made for 20 years (Article 11 of the Statute); there is no doubt that it would have been extended and extended.

With the passage of statutes defining the monetary unit, and its control by the Bank of Lithuania, all problems relating to legal aspects were resolved. There remained only technical questions, large and small, which had to be hurriedly decided, analyzed and completed. And the quicker, the better! It was important that the appearance of the Lit should not be impeded even by a day, since the depreciation of the Eastmoney had begun to alarm even the most determined optimists. Within the Ministry of Finances, Trade and Manufacture, a real bedlam of activity reigned, with editing of all types of instructions, and preparations of payment forms, banknotes. Before the Lit could appear, we must set guidelines, on how it must appear and in what manner; how it would be best and most accurate technically with one motion to accomplish all that the Monetary Unit Statute called for. Further, we must design temporary notes, edit their texts, and finally, print them. And here, alas,

Photo of "National Bank"
Building of the Finance Ministry in Kaunas
(Corner of Duonelaitis-Maironis Streets). In those days, the following bureaus were located here: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Bank (the Central Treasury of the State, whose branches were established throughout the entire liberated country) and the Ministry of Finances, Trade, and Manufacture. In the autumn of 1922, the new Bank of Lithuania was installed here.

advance, failed to cover all the problems which developed later. Therefore, on October 12, the Ministry of Finances, Trade, and Manufacture issued, shall we say, an all-embracing announcement (see Government News #111), which endeavored to bring in to normal channels all questions relative to exchange of funds. This document, interesting from many viewpoints, is worth reading in its entirety.

"Announcement is hereby made, that:
1) Beginning with the 1st day of October, 1922, the Lithuanian Republic introduces its own monetary system, the Lit;
2) Up until the 31st day of December, the aukštinas (banknotes and bankmarks) will be exchanged at the Government Treasury into Lits at that days rating;
3) Beginning with the 15th day of the month of October, all types of payments at railroads, post offices, telegraph offices, customs, and all other government offices shall be made only in Lits;
4) All government receipts and payments designated in Lits are payable into Governmental deposits in Lits;
5) All payments, recorded in aukštinas, are payable into depositors in Lits, at the daily rating;
6) All orders for payment, described in aukštinas, excepting the orders of acceptance Committees, shall not be paid. These orders are returnable to the issuing offices, to change their totals into Lits;
7) Orders of acceptance Committees, described in aukštinas at depositors, are payable in Lits at the daily rating;
8) Depositors, upon payment to acceptance Committees of small sums described in aukštinas and exchanging them for Lits, shall pay small change in cents as follows:
a. Fractions of less than half a cent are disregarded;

It was for the Fatherland, not for a stranger, the employees of bureaus would chide; for that same Fatherland which they served so conscientiously even then, when it did not even have its own money, nor anything with which it could reasonably compensate them. Now, that the Lit has appeared, a wholesome government employee's life will begin, for all the formerly suffered shortages, the hardships endured, the state's employee will be recompensed soo with a fitting remembrance of his travails...

But even this lengthy announcement of the Ministry was not entirely satisfactory, as will soon appear. The following addendum ⁶³ states, that "the penalty amounts noted in the statutes, the amounts due in court cases, all types of payments and other collection tariffs and taxes, which have not to the present time, been changed into the new monetary system by statute issuance, are changed into Lits in this fashion: penalties and sums due in court cases, payments, tariffs and taxes, which have been promulgated:

1. In 1919, are divisible by 2 and the resulting sum is given as Lits, 2. 1920-5, 3. 1921-15, 4. 1922-20.

Even so, other changes became necessary. On November 27, the Ministry itself issued an addendum or change ⁶⁴ to its announcement of October 12th, which stated anew, that:

A. Local government bodies and various bureaus to whom loans in auksinas have been made, whose return date falls after the 1st day of November, are returnable to the Government Treasury in Lits, reckoning one Lit the equal of 175 auksinas;" (See Article 9);

B. The due date established by the earlier announcement for balancing accounts between government bureaus, between bureaus and the public and government employees, and also the due date for balancing advances (set at the former announcement) is extended until December 25th, but the rate of exchange for the auksinas remains the same;

⁶³ Signed October 20th; published in the Government News #114 (November 9th).

⁶⁴ Published in Government News #119 (December 20th).

22) Government offices, having expended Government receipts collected in auksinas, make settlement in Lits at the rate of 200 auksinas per Lit. The referred to settlement will be accomplished by expense vouchers, whose text will show in which receipts column the expended sum of auksinas must be entered. It is strictly forbidden to give into anyone's hands the indicated type of moneys. Settlement shall be completed by the 1st day of November of this year;

23) All capital in circulation, and merchandize currently in warehouses are entered in Lits, reckoning 1 Lit equal to 175 auksinas;

24) Offices and persons who received advances will be carried over into the treasury in Lits at the rate of the day of transfer. In such instances, the transferred sum of auksinas is declared, and the Treasury must note in the text of the receipt, how many auksinas were paid in, which day's rate, and how many Lits result.

Persons and offices will render an accounting of all advances received in auksinas definitely by the 31st day of October of this year;

25) If for any reason wages, per diems or other sums have not been paid to government officers and employees, which were to be paid before the 1st day of October, such payments are payable at the rate of 200 auksinas for a Lit;

26) Revenue documents, documentary stamps issued in auksinas, are sold in Lits at the daily rate;

27) Rolls of stamps are sold for Lits. For those role which were designated in marks, payment for them may be made at the daily rate.

28) Depositories will accept auksinas from customs, the post office and other government offices at the rate which these offices received them from the public. In this case, the declarations must note which days receipts were accepted by the office, and at what rate.

With the appearance of the Lit, foreign evidences of payment remaining in circulation-- marks--must be exchanged into Lits within three months, at the rate established by the Minister of Finance, Trade, and Manufacture. The expiration date was set at December 31, 1922. The exchange was channelled through the national depositories, operating in the county capitals and other larger towns, as well as through all banks. The Ministry of Finance encountered endless difficulties in establishing the exchange rate for the moneys, since the German mark, and with

2. DISPOSITION OF FOREIGN CURRENCY

Photo of Vytautas Petrulis (born 1890) Minister of Lithuania's Finance, Trade and Manufacture at the time of the installation of the Lit. In the spring of 1941, the Bolsheviks exiled him to Siberia.



16) Deposits on current accounts are exchangeable into Lits at the rate of 175 auksinas for a Lit, and payable in Lits or marks. From November 1st of this year, deposits on current accounts are payable only in Lits. This article affects only deposits to national savings banks' current accounts and to depositories;

17) All unused credits remaining as of October 1st are exchanged into Lits at the rate of 200 Auksinas to the Lit;

18) Auksinas brought into deposits are carried into percentage column of the papers, and are payable in auksinas or Lits at the rate of the day of payment. In such cases, the orders are written in auksinas.

19) At the demand of the owner of the deposits, the existing total in his deposits in the normal manner may be exchanged into Lits at the daily rate of exchange.

20) Government offices, may, among themselves, close at the rate of 200 auksinas for a Lit, when funds in their treasury are transferred from one account into another; this rate is set for the month of October; such closings must be completed by October 31st;

21) For Government offices to close accounts with the public and with government employees up to October 31st only, the rate is hereby set at 200 auksinas for the Lit. Offices recording the necessary total of auksinas to pay for contracted expenditures up to October 1st of this year, will carry over into Lits, at a rate of 200 auksinas for the Lit, and write an order or check for these expenditures in Lits. In paying old debts, in the text of the order, or on the other side of the check, it will be noted what sum of money in auksinas is due the creditor. All affected settlements will be concluded by the 31st day of October of this year.

NOTE: At the demand of the creditor, settlement may be made in the normal routine in foreign currency, as may be called for in the agreement.

NOTE: This article relates only to those receipts which were received in our offices prior to the 15th day of October of this year.

29) Funds transferred erroneously into government depositories, when returned, the Finance Department shall issue an expense order in auksinas, but the depositories shall make payment in Lits at the rate of the day of payment;

30) From the 1st day of October of this year, all computations shall be made in Lits. For the year 1922, the annual computations shall be made in two sets of figures:

a. Until the 1st day of October of this year, all all computations and balances are closed in auksinas;

b. From the 1st day of October until December 31st, entirely in Lits;

31) Expense orders are issued in auksinas to a list of approved creditors, and depositories make payment in Lits at the rate of the day payment is made;

32) Units of the army will receive compensation from received advances through the month of October in auksinas. All bills and advances are closed in auksinas, and the balance is transferred into government depositories;

33) Until the 31st day of December of this year; all depositories and banks will exchange auksinas into Lits exclusively;

34) All prior regulations in this matter made by the Ministry of Finance, Trade and Manufacture are hereby rescinded."

Signed: V. Petrulis, Minister of Finances, Trade And Manufacture, and J. Duleckis, Director, Finance Department.

Thus it was that an entire chain of financial problems were decided, which had heavily oppressed the entire nation's bureaus, and their "green" employees. Entire months had been spent, working day and night, with no complaints of fatigue, and no overtime demanded. Just so that everything would come out evenly and nicely!

c. Article 24 is modified with this note: "This article affects only government offices and their employees;"

d. After December 1, 1922, the Government Treasury will accept auksinas from government bureaus only at the daily rate.

With the Lit established, the Government Insurance Institute received from the Ministry of Finance, Trade, and Manufacture, instructions 65 to operate under these regulations:

"1. From the 1st day of October, 1922, all insurance is done in Lits, with the responsibility of both parties shown in Lits in the issuing documents; all insurance for which receipts were issued in auksinas up to October 1, 1922, from January 1, 1923, valuations, the amount of insurance and premiums will be changed to Lits;

2. A new chart showing normal cost is established; to price buildings; the old cost chart is abolished; 3. In establishing the new chart, for every five auksinas of the old chart, one Lit is confirmed.

4. In making a revelation in Lits, valuations higher than the real value are forbidden; if the cost of building material changes; this same principle is maintained;

5. Overall, the Comptroller of the Government Insurance Institute will follow the monetary unit statute...."

There were more instructions and explanations of all kinds, coming from above down in all branches of the new government hierarchy. It was not easy to extricate oneself from the tangle of morass of foreign currency. An entire company of inexperienced government clerks, in spite of their utmost efforts and ardent desires, were unable to avoid mistakes, and done at their personal expense.

65. These instructions were signed October 9th; they were published in the Government News #123 (January 25, 1923).

dischargeable at the US dollar quote, at the time the obligation was contracted; d) interest on obligations designated in these paragraphs to the day of demand is not computed;

4. a) All deposits made before the 1st day of Sept. 1922 to the Treasury of Lithuania, or to credit companies in auksinas or eastmarks, these institutions will pay all current accounts and deposits in Lits, counting 1 Lit to be equal to 175 Auk sinas or Eastmarks.

NOTE: Loans to credit companies in auksinas or eastmarks are dischargeable in Lits, counting 1 Lit equal to 175 auksinas or eastmarks.

b) deposits made in auksinas or eastmarks to the companies named in point "a" of this paragraph from the 1st day of Oct. 1922 to the 1st day of Jan. 1923, current accounts and deposits are payable at the rate quoted on the day of deposit; c) deposits made in other currency to the companies named in point "a" of this paragraph, are payable in the same currency, or, if such is not available in the named companies,--in Lits, at the rate quoted on the day of deposit;

5. a) this statute will not affect obligations agreed to bilaterally, or designated by a final decision of a court; b) debts which were satisfied by the payment of rubles on deposit until the 1st day of January, 1921, and auksinas or eastmarks until the 1st day of Oct. 1922, are considered paid; c) it is permitted to send out tracers for 6 months⁷⁰ from the date of the publication of this statute (July 4, 1925, J.K.K.) for those debts whose due date expired after the 1st day of October 1922;

⁷⁰ On July 31, 1926, the Govnt News #232 published a change in this period, in this respect, to permit sending tracers after debts overdue at the 1st day of October 1922, until January 4, 1927. This change operated from the 4th day of January, 1926.

[Footnote Pg 149 cont] and even years would pass.

During those three months,--a billion marks were redeemed, and they were replaced by some million Lits in the 'teens. A part of the Eastmoney, for various reasons, was retained by the public; in the spring of 1923, householders papered their walls with them!

On January 1, 1923, the Lit alone assumed the position prepared for it in the Independent Lithuanian economy. As it gained strength, the US dollar 67, and the English pound, tried and true friends of our people from of old, remained in circulation with the rights of honored guests, as they had been until then. They circulated freely from hand to hand, with precedence over the Lit, and were accepted in all government bureaus. But finally on one occasion, the aggressive Minister of Finance, Trade and Manufacture V. Petrulis, pounced upon these "foreigners." In his directive⁶⁸ of February 6, 1923, he struck the following blow at them:

"In accordance with the provisions of Article 5, Statute of the Currency Unit (Govnt news #103, line #806), I direct all government bureaus, in accepting all taxes and collections, not to accept dollars, pounds and other currency. Government bureaus, accepting taxes and collections, must take only Lits and cents."

That was an entirely meaningful and correct directive. Many looked upon the Lit with a good deal of skepticism; it was necessary to convince the public to have faith in it (the Lit) by all means and methods. This directive of the Minister accomplished more than a number of long-winded proclamations would have done. "If the Lit is more acceptable to these bureaus than the dollar or the pound, why not to me also?" an individual who eyed the Lit coldly would ask. The answer is not hard to guess.

And so, step by step, the newborn Lit overcame all

⁶⁷ During 1919-22, about 20,000 Lithuanians returned home from America, and brought with them many dollars. As the returnees established themselves, their dollars spread throughout the entire country. In the days of the Eastmark, the dollar was a prime object of speculation; and at first, it brought down the Lit. ⁶⁸ An announcement of March 1, Govnt News #124 (Foreign currency could be exchanged into Lits at every bank at the daily rate).

⁷⁵ This referred to the statute "The exchange into Lits of Active Monetary Units in Lithuania," 4th paragraph. The method and rate were set by the Minister of Finance--his "announcement" was published January 27, 1926, in the Government News #214.

In that manner, the monies of the formerly most powerful land empires of Europe: Germany and Russia, were liquidated and "buried," having played a leading role in the Lithuanian nation; one longer, the other for a shorter time. On their grave, revived to a new life in the Independent Government of Lithuania, a new, strong and unrocked by any wind, the Lithuanian Lit pollinated and grew!

The warranted sums on deposit in auksinas or eastmarks were paid out through the bank of Lithuania in the following manner: deposited up to October 1, 1922, and not withdrawn until July 4, 1925,--one Lit for 175 auksinas; deposited between October 1, 1922 and January 1, 1923--at the rate of the day of deposit.⁷⁵

Month	1919	1920	1921	1922
January				
February				
March				
[Etc]				
[Chart etc....]				

b. One Lit equals in rubles:
1915, Sept. 1st,--end of December 0.289-0.327;
1916, Janu. 1st,-- " " [Chart etc....]
(See Chart page 156)
c. One Russian czarist government's paper ruble equals in Lits:

it the Eastmark at the end of 1922, began to plunge down with unusual speed. If it had just fallen--no trouble! As the official chart (acknowledged by the Finance Minister) showed (See page 155) the mark-Eastmoney rate bacillated not just down, but even up at times! It was necessary to adjust the rate more often than daily. There were periods during which the rate of the mark was entirely impossible to fix, since often even an hour's time proved too long! As an example, on December 18th, one USA dollar was equal to 6100 marks-auksinas, and on the following day it reached 7312.50; the total difference (1,212.50 marks-auksinas) could not be fixed by anyone, let us say, at 12 o'clock midnight. It changed during the entire day throughout the 24 hours, by an average of 50 marks an hour, almost a mark per minute....

In the exchange booths, stacks of paper money turning worthless were quickly accumulated. A citizen entering with a large bag of Eastmoney would leave with a thin packet of Lit notes in his hand. But in that packet were his own, stable and trustworthy moneys, concerning which there was no need to tremble, at least for the next few days.⁶⁶

Eastmoneys redeemed flowed into the National Bank of Lithuania. Having the sole right to issue Lit notes, this Bank must withdraw all foreign money from the state, exchanging it for the new evidences of payment, based upon gold and foreign currency, supported by gold. In those days, each flake of gold amounted to something, so the Bank of Lithuania, paying no attention to the loan agreement made Dec. 30, 1918, between the Temporary Lithuanian Government and "Darlehnskasse" quickly sold the retired Eastmoney at the going rate through the banks on the Berlin stock exchange and bought dollars!!; exchanged them for gold, and strengthened the backin of the Lit. There was not too much benefit realized from these transactions, but at least it was better than nothing.

⁶⁶ Alas, there were some tricks attempted even here. Propaganda of Lithuania's enemies alleged that neither Lithuania nor its Lit would long survive. But the public's greatest anxiety was, does the Bank of Lithuania really have that smidgin of gold, which all concerned bureaus were loudly claiming, though on the temporary Lit banknotes there was not one word mentioned. Until the Lit "settled down" and until the public grew accustomed to it, months Pg 149.

obstacles lying in its path. And later, the time came when not only Lithuanians, but millions of foreigners considered the Lit one of the most stable of the entire world's currencies.

After having liquidated Eastmoney and finally closed that historical episode, the government began to regulate various ongoing accords, agreed to in foreign currencies within the Lithuanian territory. In those matters, the Senate accepted a statute⁶⁹ on June 23, 1925, "The exchange into Lits of Active Monetary Units in Lithuania," which stated that:

1. Sums fixed in rubles by statute which have not been changed into Lits by statute, are hereby exchanged into Lits, counting one ruble the equal of 5 Lits;

2. Sums fixed in German Eastmarks or Auksinas by statute which have not been changed into Lits by statute, are hereby exchanged into Lits at the rate the USA was quoted at the time those statutes were published;

3. a) monetary obligations, contracted in rubles up to the 1st day of September, 1915, are dischargeable in Lits, counting one ruble the equal of 1 Lit; b) monetary obligations, contracted in rubles, Eastmarks, or Auksinas after the 1st day of Sept., 1915, are dischargeable in Lits at the rate the US dollar was quoted, at the time the obligation was contracted in rubles up to the 1st day of September 1915 from inheritances, wills, legacies, devices, and pensions to persons suffering from unfortunate accidents, frauds and illegal profiteering, are dischargeable at five Lits for 1 ruble; the same obligations, contracted in rubles, Eastmarks or Auksinas after the 1st day of September, 1915, are

⁶⁹ Published, July 4th Government News #197

"A statute relating to payments of all types of debts and agreements-promises, contracted in a currency other than the presently circulating currency (Temporary Govt News, #17), "A statute relating to repayment of certain debts and promises made before the German occupation, or during the occupation" (Temp. Govt News #1-19) mentioned in our chapter "The end of the Eastmoney," and all other statutes which conflict with "The exchange into Lits of Active Monetary Units in Lithuania," with the publication of this statute, are cancelled and cease to operate.

"To execute this (newest) statute, the Finance Minister prepared and publicly advertised 3 money rating charts⁷⁴ as follows:

- 1) USA dollar--auksinas or Eastmarks.⁷²
- 2) Lit-Auksian rubles.⁷³
- 3) The Russian czarist government's paper rubles--Lits.⁷⁴

The named quotes on the first and second charts relate to each day of the year, while the third--to each month, according to these charts, a. One USA dollar equals in Auksinas:

1915, beginning of Sept., ending of Dec--4.97--5.20; 1916, " " " Jan. " [CHART etc., etc.,]

Note: 1 Lit = 0.1 dollar; 1 Eastruble = 2 marks or Auksinas.

⁷¹ To indicate the dollar-auksinas (Eastmarks) quotes, for October, Nov, and Dec months of 1921 & 1922, we give a combined chart (see pg. 155)

⁷² Published July 31, 1925 Govt. News #199.
⁷³ Published October 6, 1925, Govt. News #205
⁷⁴ Published Sept. 5, 1927 Government News #258